

TRADE RELATIONS REGARDING  
PRODUCTS OF KAZAKHSTAN**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2001*

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the Congressional Record the following letter I received from A. Machkevitch the President of the Jewish Congress of Kazakhstan in support of H.R. 1318, legislation that would authorize President Bush to extend normal trade relations treatment to the products of Kazakhstan.

JEWISH CONGRESS OF KAZAKHSTAN,

*Kylnaev str., June 27, 2001.*

Hon. ROBERT WEXLER,  
Member of Congress, Cannon HOB, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WEXLER: The Jewish Congress of Kazakhstan welcomes the decision of a number of US Congress members, in particular Senator S. Brownback and Congressman J. Pitts on termination of Section IV of Trade Law of 1974 in relation to Kazakhstan and granting the country a permanent Regime of Normal Trade Relationship with the USA.

Undoubtedly, at the time of this Section adoption the decision of American legislators was timely and justified. One can not deny the fact that the communist regime tried all ways to oppress and limit rights of the country's Jewry. Similar to the representatives of many other nationalities of the Soviet Union we could neither openly declare ourselves as ethnic group, nor visit our relatives abroad, as well as freely profess our religion. In this respect we are immensely grateful to the American people demonstrating concern and sympathy with our life at the time of hardships. The amendment introduced by the two prominent US Statesmen—Jackson and Vanick—warmed our hearts.

However, the environment has changed. The Union broke up. Having cast off the totalitarianism chains, Kazakhstan has built a new independent state where the great principles of political and economic freedom, parity of rights and opportunities are being practiced. Today Kazakhstan is a democratic nation with steadily developing economy and fair chances to become a stronghold of security and democracy in the Central Asian region.

The young State of Kazakhstan emerged on the background of unique ethnic situation. Kazakhstan was the only former soviet republic in the region without distinct prevalence of a single ethnic group. Over 100 nationalities and ethnic groups living together learned to coexist without internal conflicts and discords to much extent owing to the efforts of the country's leadership headed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Realizing that the majority, of peoples of Kazakhstan subjected to mass repression at the time of stalinism and fascism have been deprived of possibility to develop their culture and language, the Government of Kazakhstan encourages creation of ethnic and cultural centers in all regions of the country. The Jewry is not an exclusion. The only Jewish school in the Central Asian region successfully functions in our country, construction of 10 new synagogues is underway in the largest cities of Kazakhstan. In general, 3000 religious organizations of 46 confessions function in Kazakhstan. None of the other countries in the region can demonstrate such achievements.

In our sincere belief the Kazakhstan Government's aspiration to preserve and

strengthen stability and interethnic concord both in the country and the whole region should be encouraged by the USA. We proceed from the fact that a country which liberated the minds of people would be to a larger extent successful in achieving prosperity than a society burdened with heavy heritage of the past, such as amendment of Jackson—Vanick.

In this context the Jewish community of Kazakhstan calls upon you to exert your influence in freeing Kazakhstan from this rudiment of the past, which would undoubtedly strengthen relationship between our countries and testify to the fact that voices of tens of thousands of the Kazakhstan Jews have been once again heard by our American friends.

Yours Sincerely,

A. MACHKEVITCH,

*President.*RETIREMENT OF REV. LEO J.  
O'DONOVAN, S.J. AS PRESIDENT  
OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2001*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J. leaves Georgetown University on June 30th after twelve splendid and productive years as the president of the oldest Catholic university in the United States. I know I am joined by the Members of the House in recognizing Father O'Donovan's very distinguished service to Georgetown, to higher education, to this city, and to his Catholic faith.

Father O'Donovan, a summa cum laude graduate of Georgetown College, a Jesuit institution, returned to his renowned alma mater, himself a distinguished Jesuit. He has led the University in the tradition of scholarship, faith, and service, as if it were second nature to him.

I have had the opportunity to observe Father O'Donovan at work because I was a tenured member of the faculty of the Law Center when he became president in 1989 and have continued as a faculty member, teaching a course every year. I watched first hand as Father O'Donovan strengthened a university that was already acknowledged to be one of the best in the country, and at the same time, deepened its strong commitment to its religious mission and to this city.

Father O'Donovan managed simultaneously to raise the university's academic standing and enrich the religious mission of one of the world's foremost Catholic universities. He leaves the University significantly expanded both academically and physically, with 37% more full time faculty, a 25% increase in library holdings, and a doubling of endowed chairs. Among the most significant capital improvements during Father O'Donovan's tenure are an \$82 million renovation of all undergraduate housing and his initiation of a \$169 million Southwest Quadrangle, which will contain new residences for undergraduates and for the Jesuit community. His signature especially is on the religious identity of the institution to which he has brought fresh and innovative emphasis.

I am particularly grateful to Father O'Donovan for his leadership in making Georgetown an especially good D.C. citizen.

These contributions have been plentiful and varied, from the University's D.C. Reads literacy tutors and faculty and student support for our catholic elementary schools, to the university's \$1 million investment that helped launch a community bank, the City First Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot pretend to summarize Father O'Donovan's magnificent accomplishments in a terse statement before the House or even in the longer statement of his accomplishments that I am submitting for the record. The achievements of the O'Donovan presidency will continue to roll out for years to come. Suffice it to say that in 1989, the challenge for a top university was to find a top president and that after a dozen years, no one can doubt that Georgetown was fortunate to meet that high standard in the man who became its 47th president. Father Leo J. O'Donovan will always be remembered at the university, in this city, and in our country for his gallant and loving spirit and for his unique contributions to education and to the District of Columbia, while reinforcing the values of his religious faith in the institution he has superbly lead into the 21st century.

LEO J. O'DONOVAN, S.J.—LEADERSHIP FOR  
GEORGETOWN

The Reverend Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J., became Georgetown University's 47th president in 1989, 33 years after he graduated summa cum laude from Georgetown College. A member of the Society of Jesus since 1957, Fr. O'Donovan is a specialist in systematic theology and holds advanced degrees in theology and philosophy from Fordham University, Woodstock College, and the University of Münster, Germany. At the time of his election to serve as president of Georgetown, he was a professor of systematic theology at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a visiting fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center on Georgetown's campus, and a member of Georgetown's Board of Directors.

Under his leadership in the past twelve years, Georgetown University has continued to flourish and grow as a world-class university with a vibrant Catholic and Jesuit identity. As president, Fr. O'Donovan has sustained and enhanced Georgetown University's traditions of scholarship, faith, and service—advancing teaching and research, strengthening the University's commitment to educating "men and women for others," and ensuring that Georgetown serves as a strong non-profit citizen in Washington, D.C.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Ranked among the top 25 universities in the nation every year in the 1990s, as well as in 2000-2001, Georgetown has continued to strengthen academic excellence and deepen its longstanding commitment to teaching and research.

Georgetown's outstanding students continue to achieve distinction nationally, earning some of the most prestigious awards in higher education, including 11 Rhodes Scholarships, 7 Marshall Scholarships, and 8 Luce Foundation Scholarships since 1990. Georgetown's Law Center ranks first in the nation in the number of graduates who go into public interest and public service law. And 64 judicial clerkships have recently been awarded to Law Center graduates.

At the School of Medicine, students continue to perform exceptionally well in residency assignments they receive through the National Residency Matching Program.